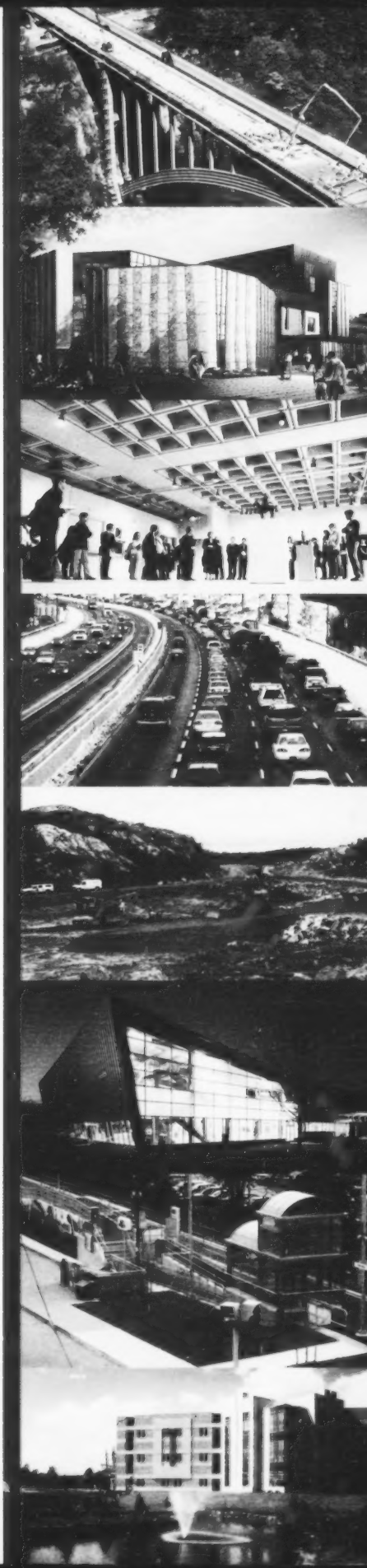
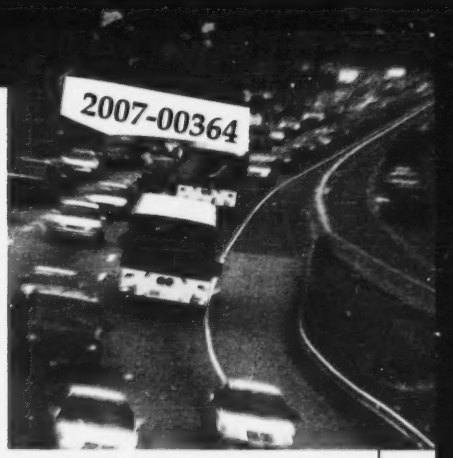
ReNew Ontario

Progress Report 2006



Ontario



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ReNew Ontario

Introduction

Did you know?

Ontario's population is expected to increase by about four million over the next 25 years – a 29 per cent increase.

Infrastructure is vital to our quality of life, our public services and Ontario's economic prosperity.

That's why in May 2005 we launched *ReNew Ontario*, a five-year strategic infrastructure investment plan. It's the most ambitious public infrastructure undertaking in over a generation.

Together with our partners, we're investing more than $30 billion to repair the neglect of the past and build for the growth of the future.

We're achieving tangible, concrete results.

Students are getting the education they need in classrooms that are more conducive to learning because we're repairing crumbling schools.

People are getting the health and long-term care they need, when and where they need it, as we modernize hospitals, upgrade diagnostic equipment, create more spaces for medical students and improve access to health care.

Commuters and businesses are benefiting as we work to improve and expand public transit and our roads, highways and bridges that will help get people to where they need to be and our goods to market.

Our plan is a plan of action and the activity is well underway.

Our infrastructure investments in the first two years will total more than $11 billion, well on the way to achieving our five-year target of more than $30 billion.

This report highlights some of our key achievements and illustrates how we're working together to provide a solid foundation for economic growth.

Health Care Infrastructure Investments Improve Access and Treatment for Families

The Challenge

Our hospitals were aging. When we launched *ReNew Ontario*, hospital buildings were on average, more than 40 years old.

And Ontario's growing and aging population and increasing needs for innovative health care were creating tremendous pressures on our health system.

The Plan

Our plan is to modernize and upgrade health care facilities and equipment and expand capacity to meet the needs. Together with our partners, we are investing more than $5 billion in health care by 2010.

The Progress

- More than 100 hospital projects are moving forward.
- People across the province will have access to new and redeveloped health care facilities as we continue our work on hospital projects in North Bay, Sioux Lookout, Sault Ste. Marie, Halton, Grimsby, Woodstock, St. Catharines, Toronto, Peterborough, Markham, Belleville, Ajax-Pickering, London, Mississauga, Toronto, Sarnia, Sudbury and Mattawa.

Did you know?

For the first time, we're tracking wait times for medical services in Ontario.

Wait times are down for five key health care services – people are being seen anywhere from three to 63 days sooner than they were in 2005.

For more information on wait times, visit **www.ontariowaittimes.com**

- Planning for the construction and expansion of new cancer programs in Barrie, Newmarket, St. Catharines and Sault Ste. Marie, and the renovation and expansion of the centres in Ottawa and Kingston have been announced.
- People are getting top-quality MRI exams more quickly as a result of the addition of six new hospital-based MRI services in Ontario since May 2004 and the replacement of seven old MRI services. We've reduced wait times for MRI scans by 23.3 percent since introducing our Wait Time Strategy in November 2004.

- By replacing 31 old hospital-based CT scanners with the latest CT scanner technology, we're providing people with the high-quality health care they need and deserve sooner. CT wait times have been cut by 13.6 per cent since November 2004.
- Thirty-six long-term care projects have been completed, adding 771 new long-term care beds and redeveloping more than 3,500 existing beds.
- Local Share policies have been reformed, making it easier for communities to raise their share of hospital capital funding.

Government Increases Support for Hospital Capital Projects

In June 2006, we announced the province will cover an unprecedented 90 per cent of eligible construction costs for hospital projects. This represents more than $1 billion in additional support to hospitals, and makes it easier for hospitals and their communities to raise the funds they need for their hospital projects.

In the past, most capital cost share rates varied from 50 to 80 per cent depending on the project.

- To improve access to doctors, we're increasing the number of first-year medical school spaces by 23 per cent.
- We're creating four new satellite medical education campuses in Waterloo, St. Catharines, Mississauga and Windsor. In addition to new spaces at Queen's University and the University of Ottawa, this will create 104 new first-year spaces at medical schools by 2008-09.
- The Northern Ontario School of Medicine, with campuses in Thunder Bay and Sudbury, opened its doors in September 2005. The school is the first-ever medical school in northern Ontario and the first to be built in Canada in 35 years.

Shovels in the Ground at Ottawa's Hôpital Montfort

In July 2005, we announced our commitment to redevelop and expand Hôpital Montfort and construction began this summer.

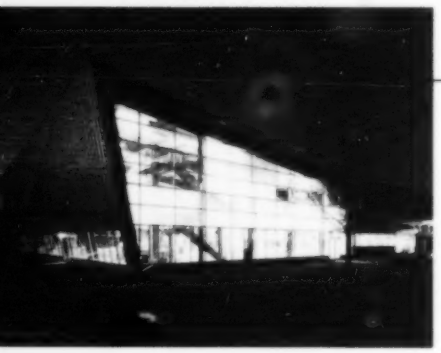
The redeveloped, publicly owned hospital will add two new wings and renovate existing facilities – including intensive care, maternal newborn, mental health, ambulatory care and emergency services. The hospital will almost double in size with a capacity of 417 beds. The expansion will also include a facility, funded by the federal government, for treating members of the armed forces.

The hospital has been serving Franco-Ontarians for more than 50 years and provides health care in both official languages. It's also a teaching hospital for Francophone health care professionals.

Children's Treatment Centres – Infrastructure to Improve Health Care for Children with Disabilities

The health of Ontario's children is a key priority. That's why we're investing $24 million in capital funding over four years in children's treatment centres that provide valuable services to children and youth with disabilities and multiple special needs and their families.

Projects have started at all five centres, including the George Jeffrey Children's Treatment Centre in Thunder Bay; the Thames Valley Children's Centre in London; One Kids Place in North Bay; and the John McGivney Children's Centre in Windsor (formerly the Children's Rehabilitation Centre of Windsor-Essex). The Ottawa Children's Centre has completed a feasibility study.



- We opened recreation facilities that promote healthy lifestyles for people of all ages, including centres in Niagara Falls, Cornwall and at the Beausoleil First Nation on Christian Island on the southern tip of Georgian Bay.

Education Investments Support Student Success and Future Economic Prosperity

The Challenge

Our schools were deteriorating and our universities and colleges needed urgent repairs and expansions so that we could provide healthy learning environments and keep pace with increasing enrollments.

The Plan

Our goal is to give every student in Ontario – from the child starting off in Junior Kindergarten to post-graduate university students – the opportunity to succeed. That's why Ontario and its partners are investing more than $10 billion in schools, universities and colleges by 2010.

These strategic, long-term investments translate into greater opportunities for young people, better jobs, and economic growth and prosperity for Ontario.

Did you know?

In December 2005, we committed to improve student success by setting high school graduation targets. The high school graduation rate is now at 71 per cent, up from 68 per cent in 2003-04. Our target is to increase the rate to 85 per cent by 2010.

The Progress

- As of August 2006, urgent repairs and construction are underway at 3,000 projects in schools across the province, providing students with healthy and comfortable learning environments.
- To help bring class sizes down, we invested up to $50 million this year to support capital projects needed to create more space for primary classes. And we're opening new schools and expanding others to meet growth requirements.
- We provided $60 million in 2005-06 to Ontario colleges and universities to maintain and improve classrooms and laboratories, and to purchase and modernize equipment used in college and apprenticeship training programs.

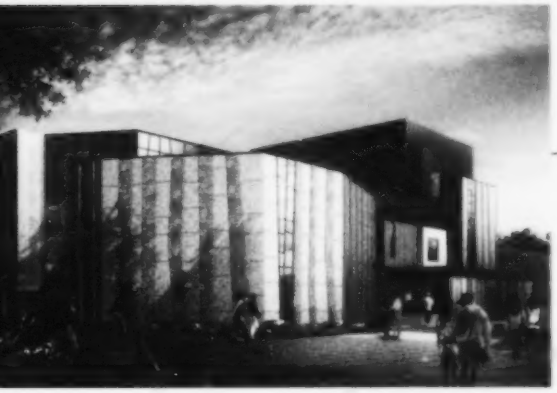
- We're creating opportunity for young people and supporting innovation by boosting the number of graduate student spaces in Ontario by 55 per cent over 2002-03 levels. In September 2006, we announced we will boost the number of spaces by 12,000 over two years, rising to 14,000 by 2009-2010.

York University's Accolade Project Gets Rave Reviews

York University officials, staff and students celebrated the opening of York University's new fine-arts complex, the Accolade Project, in March 2006.

The province committed $23.4 million to this world-class complex. The facility includes lecture halls, classrooms, a 325-seat recital hall, a cinema, recording studios, a theatre and a student-run gallery.

The project marks an exciting new phase for the 40-year old Faculty of Fine Arts at York – the first such faculty in Canada. It enhances York's reputation as one of North America's leading arts universities and a premier training ground for artists, arts administrators, producers, teachers and curators.



Transit and Transportation Investments Achieving Results

The Challenge

Traffic congestion and gridlock on our roads and highways were threatening our economic prosperity and quality of life.

Border delays were costing the provincial economy more than $5 billion per year.

And our public transit was aging and inadequate for today's growing population.

The Plan

We're developing an integrated transportation system composed of well-maintained provincial highways, local roads and bridges, public transit and efficient border gateways. We're doing this to get people to and from their destinations safely, cut commute times, reduce harmful emissions and move our goods to market.

Through *ReNew Ontario*, we're investing $11.4 billion in transportation infrastructure initiatives by 2010.

Through our *Move Ontario* initiative announced in March 2006, we're investing a further $1.2 billion in transportation projects including $838 million in public transit: $670 million for the Toronto-York Subway, $95 million for Brampton's AcceleRide program, and $65 million for Mississauga's Transitway.

The Progress with Public Transit

Did you know?

The average Toronto car carries only 1.16 people. One 10-car GO Train carries the same number of people as 1,400 air-polluting cars, and one GO bus can replace more than 50 cars. – *GO Transit*

- In 2005-06, transit riders in 110 communities benefited from $192 million in improvements made to 83 transit systems, funded through the provincial gas tax program. After five years, this program will have delivered over $1.4 billion to municipalities for public transit.
- We continued to make strategic investments under the multi-year $1.05 billion GO Transit Expansion Program in partnership with the federal government and municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area.

- Millions of commuters in the Greater Toronto Area will have more convenient and efficient access to public transit as a result of legislation that was proclaimed August 24, 2006, that will create the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority.

  The Authority will integrate municipal and regional transit planning, and coordinate fares and transit service delivery to improve convenience for commuters. It will also implement the GTA Fare Card System, which would enable commuters to travel on public transit from Durham Region to Hamilton using a single card.

GO Investments on Track for Today and the Future

Recent investments in GO Transit will make for more convenient and efficient travel for the nearly 47 million passengers who used the system in 2005-06.

These include $73 million for 20 new bi-level rail cars and 31 new highway buses with a capacity for 6,400 more passengers. As well, passengers will benefit from over 2,500 new parking spaces at GO Transit train stations, a new GO Bus Terminal at Square One in Mississauga, a fourth morning and afternoon train on the Bradford Corridor, and expanded bus services.

GO Transit also opened three new stations at Mount Pleasant, Kennedy and Milliken in 2005. Construction of another station in Mississauga is planned for the fall of 2006, to open early in 2007.

- Together with the federal government and the City of Toronto, we're investing $1.05 billion to modernize and expand the Toronto Transit Commission system. We've also committed $200 million towards the construction of the 29-kilometre, North-South Ottawa Light Rail Transit system, the largest civil works project in the City of Ottawa's history.
- We contributed $50 million toward the construction of Phase 1 of York Region's VIVA rapid transit system that is now completed. This is expected to increase transit ridership by 30 per cent, removing 7,000 car trips from major highways every day. In May 2006, we announced a further investment of $7 million for Phase 2 to help plan dedicated bus lanes and other improvements. These investments are helping York Region take more than 140,000 cars off the road in the next 15 years.

- We're investing in environmental assessment studies to kick start a major light rapid transit expansion in the Waterloo Region and we've allocated further investments for when construction commences.

The Progress with Provincial Highways

- To support economic growth and quality of life in Northern Ontario we introduced the five-year, $1.8 billion *Northern Ontario Highways Strategy* in August 2005. It will mean expanding the northern highway system by 64 kilometres, constructing 54 bridges, and repairing 2,000 kilometres of highway and 200 bridges over five years.

Highway 69 Action Plan

The government unveiled the *Highway 69 Action Plan* in June 2005.

The plan outlines a long-term strategy for completing the four-laning of the Highway 69 corridor within 12 years. It identifies the major projects and activities needed to bring about the expansion of the highway south of Sudbury to Parry Sound. A number of these projects are now underway.

Highway 69 is a major economic route to the North – 5,000 to 7,000 drivers use it every day. It is critical to the quality of life and economic prosperity of the Sudbury region and other Northeastern Ontario communities.

- We invested $656 million to expand and repair provincial highway infrastructure in Southern Ontario to support key transportation and trade corridors. Fifty-six of these projects were completed in 2005-06.
- To relieve congestion, reduce commute times and improve quality of life, we opened High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on Highway 403 and Highway 404 in the Greater Toronto Area in December 2005.
- We continued to make improvements to Highway 401 across Toronto, in Oshawa, and along the Cambridge-Woodstock corridor.
- And we began the widening of Highway 401 in the Kingston area under the federal/provincial Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program.

Did you know?

In 2005-06, on Southern Ontario's provincial highways:

- 53 km of additional highway were completed
- 13 new bridges were built
- 194 km of highway were repaired
- Six new interchanges were built
- Operational improvements, including highway illumination, shoulder improvements, intersection and interchange improvements, and median barriers, were completed.

- In June 2006, we announced the five-year, $3.4 billion Southern Ontario Highways Program. It will mean an additional 130 kilometres of highway, replacement of 64 bridges, and the repair of 1,600 kilometres of highway and 200 bridges. All of these expansions and improvements will be completed or underway by the end of 2010.
- We're also widening Highway 406 near Welland. This will support growth and development while enhancing safety in the Niagara Gateway Economic Zone identified in the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006*.

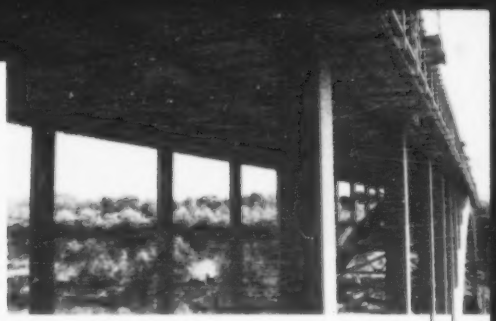
The Progress with Border Crossings

Did you know?

In 2004, roughly 45 million vehicles, including nine million trucks, used Ontario's 14 border crossings into the U.S.

One third of all Canada-U.S. trade by truck flows through Windsor's crossings. The Ambassador Bridge is Canada's busiest crossing for trade, handling nearly 3.4 million trucks per year with an annual commodity value of $110 billion.

- Through *ReNew Ontario*, we're investing $638 million with the federal government and other partners, to improve border efficiency and access.
- The completion of a $45 million project to add a new lane at the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge in Niagara Falls and the installation of queue-end warning systems is easing congestion and improving safety at the site.



- Construction continues on the QEW in Niagara, Highway 401 from Windsor to Tilbury, and Highway 402 near Sarnia, to improve access to border crossings.
- We also provided $5 million to Cornwall to enhance the connection to international crossings.

New International Truck Route to Improve Border Access and Boost Economy

The $18.9 million new international truck route in the Sault Ste. Marie area opened September 29, 2006. It will ease congestion and improve access to the International Bridge connecting Ontario and Michigan.

More than 130,000 commercial trucks carry about $3.5 billion of goods across the International Bridge every year. The new route will reduce delays and save commercial carriers about $1 million a year.

- We're working to make sure people and goods are able to move more efficiently through the border crossings at the Windsor Gateway. Together with the federal government, we're moving ahead with a $300 million investment for shorter-term improvements to relieve congestion in the Windsor Gateway. We're also working with our partners to address longer-term needs and identify the preferred location for a new Windsor-Detroit crossing by mid-2007.
- In addition to the Windsor Gateway investments, the province and its partners are investing $323 million to improve access to border crossings in the Niagara and Sarnia regions.

The Progress with Local Roads and Bridges

Local roads and bridges are vital regional links that bring people together, provide access to key public services and help get Ontario's goods to market.

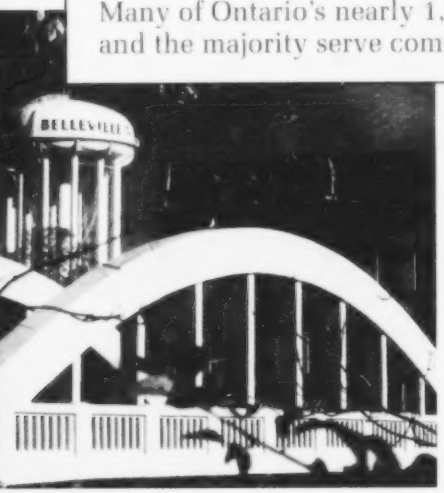
- Through the five-year, $900 million *Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund*, we committed funding in 2005-06 to 87 communities for 177 road and bridge projects through the first intake of the initiative. We announced a further 102 projects in 61 communities in April 2006.
- Our *Move Ontario* program provided an additional one-time contribution of $400 million to municipalities primarily outside of the Greater Toronto Area, to assist with road and bridge projects.

Infrastructure Providing Clean Water and Cleaner Environment

Did you know?

Ontario has over $70 billion in municipal water and wastewater assets. More than 70 per cent of the total asset lies hidden beneath the ground.

Many of Ontario's nearly 1,200 municipal water and wastewater treatment plants are small and the majority serve communities with fewer than 5,000 people.



The Challenge

Our water and wastewater systems are getting older and need to be replaced to bring them up to standard and permit expansion where needed.

The Plan

Our plan calls for investments of almost $1 billion by 2010 for initiatives to support clean water and the environment.

The Progress

- We're making sure that people have clean drinking water. In 2005-06, we invested over $340 million in environmental and clean-water infrastructure initiatives.
- Funding of more than $160 million through the *Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund* was committed by the provincial and federal governments to 30 rural and small urban communities in 2005-06 to assist with water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Through the second intake of the program, we're making additional investments in water and wastewater projects in 19 communities.
- Through its Loan Program, Infrastructure Ontario has committed to providing $68.1 million in affordable, longer-term loans in 2005-06 to repair and upgrade water infrastructure. A further $176.3 million has been committed to sewage system infrastructure over the same time period.

Affordable Housing – Providing Options for Living

The Challenge

For too long, too many Ontario families, senior citizens and other individuals had few options because of the lack of affordable housing.

The Plan

We negotiated a new agreement with the federal government to make sure that Ontarians had options for living. Through the *Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program* agreement signed in April 2005, Ontario and the federal government are each contributing $301 million to create 20,000 new affordable housing units, including 5,000 housing allowances for low-income households.

The Progress

- Since signing the agreement, we've made significant progress on 128 affordable housing projects across the province, which will provide 6,544 rental, supportive, home ownership and Northern housing initiatives.
- More than 1,600 affordable housing units are now occupied and another 2,600 units are now under construction. A further 2,300 units are in the advanced planning and approval stage.

This housing is a catalyst for stability, dignity and a sense of self-worth for the thousands of people who will now have an affordable place to call home.

Something Old to Something New – Innovative Affordable Housing Project in Peterborough

Safe, affordable housing is the foundation for a better quality of life.

In November 2005, the province, in partnership with the Government of Canada and the City of Peterborough, celebrated the start of renovations of the Woollen Mill in Peterborough that will create 50 units of affordable housing for families, seniors, persons with special needs and other persons with lower incomes.

The project gives life to a heritage building and housing to people.

The $6.6 million project includes $1.45 million from the *Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program*.

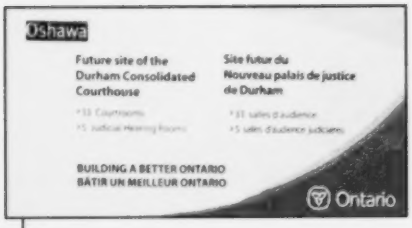
Improvements to the Justice and Criminal Prosecution Sector

The Challenge

Many of our justice facilities such as courthouses and jails were aging and lacked the capacity to handle the additional pressures of Ontario's growing population and the new forensic technologies now available to apprehend and convict offenders.

The Plan

We're investing more than $1 billion for justice sector infrastructure by 2010 to ensure people can live in safe, open, crime-free communities. These facilities will generate economic benefits for local communities as well.


Oshawa
Future site of the Durham Consolidated Courthouse
Site futur du Nouveau palais de justice de Durham
BUILDING A BETTER ONTARIO
BÂTIR UN MEILLEUR ONTARIO
Ontario

The Progress

- As part of our plan to create safer communities, we announced the establishment of a state-of-the-art provincial operations centre to allow for highly coordinated investigations and prosecutions of gun and gang-related offences, as part of our $51 million initiative to fight gun crimes.

New Consolidated Courthouse Boosts Economic Activity and Streamlines Delivery of Justice

Durham Region is one of the fastest growing regions in Ontario. There is a need to build greater capacity in court facilities over the next 20 years.

In December 2005, the government announced the selection of a site in downtown Oshawa for the new Durham Consolidated Courthouse. The courthouse will house 33 courtrooms, five judicial hearing rooms and related legal and court services. It will be the most technologically advanced courthouse in the province and have enhanced security features.

The new courthouse will help revitalize neighborhoods, create jobs and boost development in downtown Oshawa. It will employ about 350 staff and approximately 1,500 people will conduct business daily in the building, spurring increased demand for office space, restaurant meals and other services. Courthouse employees and visitors will bring an estimated $7 million per year in spending to the area, with the majority of spending in downtown Oshawa.

- We opened the new Northumberland OPP detachment office in Brighton in June 2005 and committed $1.8 million to upgrade and modernize court facilities in Cornwall.
- Investments of $20.3 million will go for upgrades and expansion of the London Courthouse, scheduled to be complete in 2008-09.
- We also announced new courthouse projects for Guelph, Quinte, St. Thomas, Thunder Bay and the Waterloo Region. Planning is underway for the Quinte and St. Thomas Courthouses and planning will begin in the fall of 2006 for the Thunder Bay Courthouse.
- Construction to expand and refurbish the Pembroke Courthouse is underway and is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2007.

Cultural Renaissance Puts Ontario Centre Stage

The Challenge

Many of Ontario's world-class cultural institutions needed a makeover to keep attracting the millions of visitors who come to Ontario's cultural tourism destinations and contribute to our economy.

The Plan

We're spearheading a dramatic and exciting transformation of Ontario's cultural industry with major investments in cultural landmarks.

The Progress

- New and revitalized world-class venues are enriching the cultural life of communities across the province and bolstering Ontario's reputation as a major cultural tourism destination.
- We're providing a total of $135.5 million and land valued at $31 million for the revitalization of cultural landmarks such as the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), the National Ballet School, the Canadian Opera Company's new Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) and the Royal Conservatory of Music.
- The 2006 Ontario Budget also allocated $23.6 million for community cultural organizations' capital projects, including Ottawa's new Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre, the new Orleans Centre and a new concert hall for the Ottawa Chamber Music Society.

In May 2005, residents of Hamilton celebrated the opening of the newly expanded Art Gallery of Hamilton. This world-class facility, the third largest art gallery in Ontario, is now able to compete for internationally renowned collections and exhibitions. The renovated gallery is expected to draw an additional 100,000 visitors annually and have a total economic impact of $27 million for the centre. The province contributed $5 million to this $18 million project.

Spotlight on Investments in Northern & Rural Ontario: Hospitals, Education, Transportation and Water Improvements

Did you know?

Northern Ontario covers more than 800,000 square kilometres, an area almost one-and-a-half times the size of France, representing nearly 90 per cent of the provincial land mass. Northern Ontario continues to be tied to growth in its primary sectors of forestry, mining, and manufacturing of wood, paper and metal.

The Challenge

Many Northern and rural communities are too small to gain economies of scale for infrastructure investments – yet people still need access to schools, roads, waters and sewer systems that local tax bases couldn't cover.

The population of many Northern and rural communities has been in decline as people left for jobs and education in other parts of the province.

Transportation costs can inflate the cost of living and doing business in the North and economic development is often hampered by distances between communities and markets.

The Plan

The region and its many diverse communities are finding opportunities to diversify by adding value and creating new opportunities in traditional sectors, as well as developing new knowledge-based industries.

That's why we're directing significant infrastructure investments to these communities. These investments are helping to build prosperous economies, create jobs and educational opportunities, and ensure a high quality of life.

The 2006 Ontario Budget included over $500 million for Northern infrastructure.

The Progress with Health Care

- We're investing $2.2 million through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation in the renovation of a surplus hospital in Thunder Bay to create and house the Northwestern Ontario Cancer and Cardiac Research Centre.

  This project will create 26 new research jobs and provide a venue for research collaborations between the new Northern Ontario School of Medicine, the Regional Cancer Centre and the Lake Superior Centre for Regenerative Medicine with international private sector companies such as Siemens Oncology and local research companies such as Genesis Genomics.

- New hospitals and major hospital expansions will take place in North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Sioux Lookout, Mattawa and Thunder Bay.

Residents of North Bay are a step closer to improved health care as plans for the new North Bay Regional Health Centre progress. The new regional centre will be a one-stop location offering a state-of-the-art acute care hospital, housing 275 beds and a rehabilitation-focused mental health facility with 113 beds and associated out patient services, all housed in one cooperative health care campus.

The Progress with Northern Ontario Highways

- The $1.8 billion *Northern Ontario Highways Strategy* will build for the future and improve safety and efficiency. It is a roadmap for Northern prosperity that will increase infrastructure investment in the North by 40 per cent, provide 45,000 jobs across the province, encourage tourism and support the economy.
- We continued work on a new Highway 11/17 corridor west of Thunder Bay – the Shabaqua Highway.
- And the widening of Highway 17 to four lanes east of Sault Ste. Marie through the Garden River First Nation continued.

The Progress with Water Systems, Roads and Bridges

- Through the *Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund*, we committed over $124 million in 2005-06 to 120 communities through the first intake of the program. This includes 35 water and wastewater projects in 30 communities and 177 road and bridge projects in 87 municipalities.

  We announced the second round of the funding program in April 2006 and, together, the provincial and federal governments will invest an additional $236 million in 88 communities. This includes 26 water and wastewater projects in 19 communities as well as 102 road and bridge projects in 61 communities.

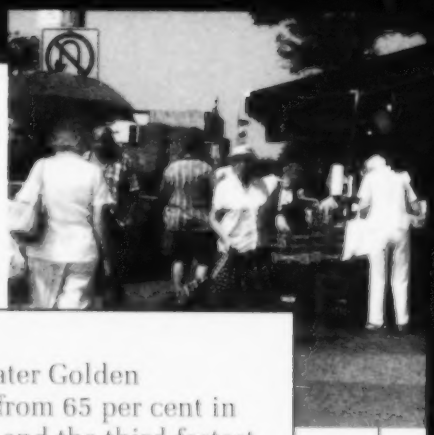
Provincial COMRIF Funding 2005-06 in Northern Ontario includes:

- $3.1 million to upgrade the Geraldton sewage system in the Municipality of Greenstone
- $15 million to build the North Bay water filtration plant
- $6.9 million for improvements to several roads in the City of Greater Sudbury

The Progress with Building Stronger Communities

- We allocated $30 million under the *Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program* for repairs, renovation or construction of homes and affordable housing rental units in Northern Ontario.
- We also made investments of $3.9 million for the construction of new accommodations at the Greenstone Forest Fire Management Headquarters and $2.4 million for a new state-of-the-art fire management facility in Chapleau to help to make Northern communities safer and stronger.
- Infrastructure Ontario, through its lending arm, gives municipalities access to low-cost, long-term financing to build and renew their public infrastructure. In 2005-06, 28 Northern municipalities applied for up to $72 million to help meet their key public infrastructure needs.
- On September 19, 2006, the province announced an additional investment of $75 million to support rural Ontario infrastructure.

Building a Strong, Prosperous Greater Golden Horseshoe



Did you know?

Over 80 per cent of Ontario's population growth is occurring in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The area's share of Ontario's total population will increase from 65 per cent in 2001 to 70 per cent in 2031. The area is the economic engine of Canada and the third fastest growing urban region in North America.

The Challenge

The sprawling development patterns in the Greater Golden Horseshoe were affecting Ontario's competitive potential, hurting the economy and damaging our health and quality of life.

The Plan

In June 2006, we released the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2006* under the Places to Grow Act, 2005. It's a landmark initiative that will result in more vibrant, livable communities, well-planned areas and integrated transportation systems.

The province is supporting the vision of the Growth Plan with strategic infrastructure investments that match infrastructure priorities with the goals and objectives of the plan.

Our investments of more than $8.3 billion in the Greater Golden Horseshoe by 2010 will ensure healthy, prosperous and diverse communities today and in the future. Investments include more than $7.5 billion through *ReNew Ontario*, and an additional $838 million through the *Move Ontario* initiative.

The Progress with Health Care

Investments in health care facilities are helping to meet the evolving needs of the growing and aging population. The province will directly invest over $1.6 billion in health care in the area by 2009-10.

New and Expanded Hospitals for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

- New hospitals in St. Catharines, Peterborough, Markham, Grimsby, Halton and Toronto will replace outdated facilities.
- New regional cancer care centres in Barrie, Newmarket and St. Catharines will improve access and shorten wait times for cancer care.
- Expansions, improvements and major redevelopment of hospitals in Mississauga, Oakville, Oshawa, Hamilton, Kitchener, Brampton and Toronto will improve access to a wide variety of in-patient and out-patient health services.

The Progress with Livable Communities

- Our investment in the new 100,000 square foot Niagara Falls Community Centre will provide residents with a range of recreational and cultural experiences.

- Other investments are bringing economic benefits as well as recreational and healthy living opportunities to people. The new 600-metre multi-sport watercourse in Toronto's western beaches opened in 2006. It was the site of the International Dragon Boat Federation Club Crew World Championship in August 2006.

West Don Lands Neighbourhood – Providing Opportunities for Families, Individuals, Businesses and Entrepreneurs

The province, together with the federal government, the City of Toronto and the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation, officially launched the start of work in the West Don Lands in March 2006. The 32-hectare West Don Lands area, which has been in a derelict state for years, will be the future home to a sustainable, mixed-income community, a new transit line and an eight-hectare Don River Park. The new community is part of the comprehensive waterfront revitalization underway in Toronto.

The project will provide 6,000 new residences, including 1,500 units of affordable housing; a new Light Rail Transit within a five-minute walk of all homes; two childcare centres; a community centre and pool; and an elementary school.

The West Don Lands community will be a green community. Buildings will be energy efficient, and a variety of environmental elements will be incorporated. All buildings in the community will be designed and built to the highest LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold standard for energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

The Progress with Public Transit & Transportation

The *Growth Plan* identifies transit investments as the first priority for moving people in the region. Efficient and convenient public transit also supports regional economic development, relieves pressure on strategic transportation corridors and helps to reduce air pollution.

- Through *ReNew Ontario*, we will invest over $4.1 billion over five years to renew and expand public transit in the area. Through *Move Ontario*, we've provided an additional $838 million to help move forward a number of public transit projects in Toronto and York Region, Brampton and Mississauga.
- The City of Toronto and York Region have announced their participation in the Toronto-York subway and are full partners with the province in construction of the subway. Of the almost $2.1 billion total project cost, almost $1.4 billion has been committed by Ontario, Toronto and York Region.
- We're moving ahead with GO Transit and the municipalities of Brampton, Burlington, Hamilton, Mississauga, Toronto, Oakville and York Region to develop an integrated fare collection system that will make travel more convenient for millions of transit riders.

The farecard will be introduced in early 2007. It will link Mississauga Transit, GO Transit and Toronto Transit Commission in Toronto. The system is expected to be fully in place from Hamilton to Whitby by 2010. With the card, riders will no longer have to search for exact change or carry different tickets to travel on different transit systems.

Construction Starts on New Subway Platform at Union Station

On work days, more than 75,000 people crowd the narrow northbound and southbound subway platform at Toronto's Union Station – a three-fold increase from the 25,000 daily passengers who used it when it was built in 1954.

The province, together with the federal government, the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation and the City of Toronto, officially launched the start of construction of a second passenger platform at Union subway station on May 24, 2006.

The new, safer subway platform will ease tension and improve safety and the quality of life for the millions of commuters and travelers who use this busy station.

The $90 million expansion project is part of Toronto's waterfront revitalization.

- Investments in the provincial highway network and border crossings within the Greater Golden Horseshoe are also helping to improve traffic flow, get people to their destinations, and goods to market.

The Progress with Research and Innovation

With its many universities, colleges, hospitals and other learning institutions, the Greater Golden Horseshoe is Ontario's major hub for research and innovation.

Our investments in research and innovation are helping to foster a culture of innovation and success in the knowledge-based, global economy.

To help Ontario stay competitive we've:

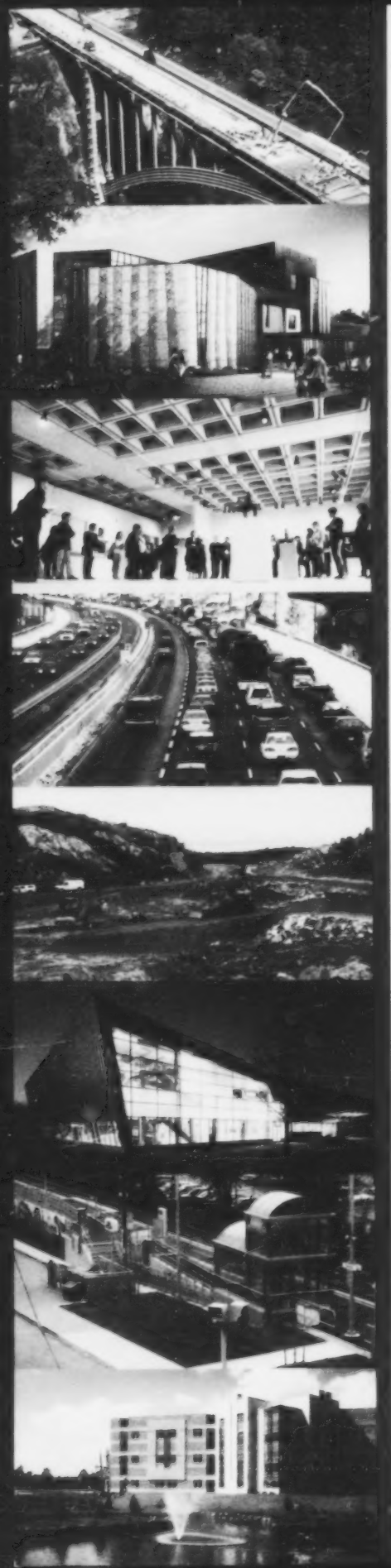
- Invested over $13 million towards the Waterloo Research and Technology Park and provided $10 million towards the McMaster Innovation Park
- Invested $44 million towards the MaRS Discovery District in Toronto and provided a further $16.2 million through the 2006 Ontario Budget to support the development of Phase 2 of the District
- Awarded $53.9 million through the Ontario Research Fund for 184 research infrastructure projects at universities, colleges and hospitals in the GGH since the end of 2004.

Looking Ahead

Over the past year, the province has worked with all public sector partners, including the federal and municipal governments and public boards like hospitals and universities, colleges and school boards, to meet priorities and plan for future growth. By working alongside our building and construction trades and manufacturing industries – the people who literally build our infrastructure – we're making progress in getting infrastructure built sooner, on time and on budget.

Ontario's public infrastructure renewal program is based on the priorities defined by the people of Ontario – health care, education and infrastructure investments that not only enhance economic growth and prosperity, but also improve the quality of life for our families and our communities.

We've made significant progress since May 2005. We will continue to work together with our partners to make the investments that will meet today's needs, while building a better tomorrow.



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ReNew Ontario

Progress Report 2006

Summary

Ontario

Public infrastructure is vital to every person in Ontario and critical to our economic competitiveness. It is the foundation of our quality of life and the foundation of our economy.

It is the schools our children attend and the colleges and universities where the youth of Ontario seek higher learning and opportunities. It is the pipes that deliver the water we drink, the hospitals we depend on and the affordable housing that gives people a home. It is the roads and public transit that get us to where we want to go.

It is our provincial highway network that carries $1.2 trillion of goods every year, and our 14 borders that roughly 45 million vehicles, including nine million trucks, cross to get into the U.S., Canada's biggest trading partner.

Yet for years it was neglected. The scope and scale of Ontario's infrastructure deficit is enormous – estimated to total as much as $100 billion or more.

In May 2005, the government launched *ReNew Ontario*, a strategic, five-year infrastructure investment plan to correct the neglect of the past and build for the growth of the future. Together with its partners, the province will invest more than $30 billion to repair, revitalize and expand public infrastructure by 2010.

The plan brings a more strategic and coordinated, longer-term approach to public infrastructure investment to ensure that Ontario is ready for the nearly four million new people who will make Ontario home over the next 25 years.

It is a plan of action and activity is well underway in every sector and in every region of the province. Infrastructure investments in the first two years will total more than $11 billion, well on the way to meeting the target of more than $30 billion by 2010.

The *ReNew Ontario Progress Report 2006* highlights some of the government's key achievements in the past year and a half and illustrates how *ReNew Ontario* is making Ontario a great place to live and invest – now and in the future.

Investments in Health Care

The government is moving forward with more than 100 health care projects across the province to modernize, expand and upgrade health care facilities.

Work is underway for new state-of-the-art hospitals in North Bay, Sioux Lookout, Sault Ste. Marie, Halton, Grimsby, Woodstock, Toronto, Peterborough, Markham and Mattawa. And new and expanded cancer programs in Barrie, Newmarket, St. Catharines, Ottawa and Kingston have been announced.

New MRI services and CT scanners are replacing old machines and providing people with the high-quality health care they need and deserve sooner. They have helped to cut wait times for MRI exams and CT scans by 23.3 and 13.6 per cent respectively, since the government's Wait Plan Strategy was announced in November 2004.

Investments in Education

The government's infrastructure investments are supporting the goal to give every student in Ontario the opportunity to learn and grow.

As of August 2006, 3,000 projects are underway to repair deteriorating schools and provide students with healthy learning environments.

Colleges and universities received $60 million in 2005-06 to buy modern equipment and maintain and improve classrooms and laboratories.

The government is increasing the number of post-graduate spaces in Ontario by 55 per cent over 2002-03. Spaces will increase by 12,000 over two years, rising to 14,000 spaces by 2010, giving more opportunities for Ontario's youth and fostering a culture of innovation and learning.

Investments in Transportation– Public Transit, Highways, Roads, Bridges and Border Crossings

The government is making massive investments in transit and transportation, meeting its responsibility to reduce congestion, improve air quality and make sure people and goods are able to move more efficiently – a factor that is critical to Ontario's economy.

The provincial gas tax program for transit initiatives will make $1.4 billion available to municipalities over five years. In 2005-06, 110 communities received $192 million for local transit initiatives.

Major investments in the public transit systems of Ontario's major cities are being supplemented by an additional $838 million through the *Move Ontario* initiative announced in March 2006.

The City of Toronto and York Region have announced their participation in the Toronto-York subway and are full partners with the province in construction of the subway. Of the almost $2.1 billion total project cost, almost $1.4 billion has been committed by Ontario, Toronto and York Region.

The $1.8 billion *Northern Ontario Highways Strategy* announced in August 2005, and the $3.4 billion Southern Ontario Highways Program announced in June 2006 will help to open up key transportation and trade corridors.

The province is investing in border crossings to improve border efficiency and access for the approximately 45 million vehicles that use Ontario's 14 border crossings each year.

And through the $900 million *Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund*, smaller municipalities are receiving assistance with the funding of local roads and bridge improvements – 279 projects have been approved across Ontario through the first and second intake of this program. The *Move Ontario* initiative allocated an additional one-time $400 million for local roads and bridges.

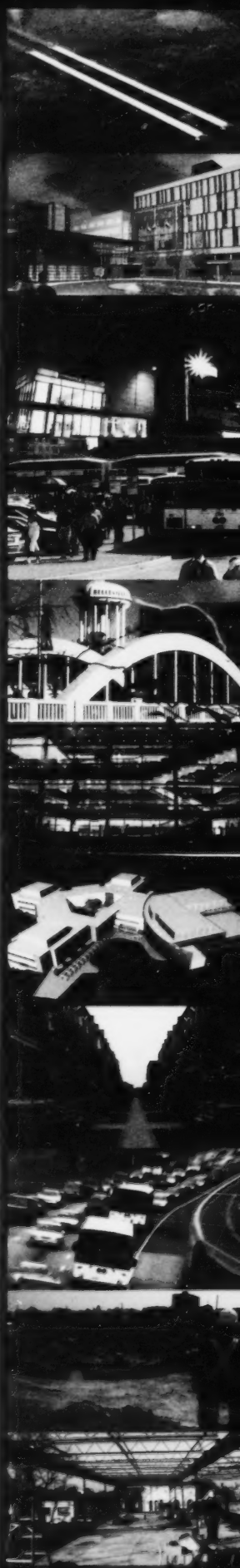
Investments in Other Sectors

In 2005-06, the government invested more than $340 million in environmental and clean water initiatives, including water and wastewater funding, to rural and small urban communities through the *Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund*.

And for the first time in over a decade, new affordable housing units are being built in Ontario. In April 2005, the province signed the *Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement*. Since then, 128 affordable housing projects are underway. Over 1,600 units are now occupied and 2,600 units are under construction. A further 2,300 units are in the advanced planning and approval stage.

The government is investing more than $1 billion for justice sector infrastructure by 2010 to upgrade, expand and build new facilities across the province. New courthouse projects have been announced for Guelph, Quinte, St. Thomas, Thunder Bay and the Waterloo Region, and the province has committed to the establishment of a provincial operations centre to allow for highly coordinated investigations and prosecutions of gun and gang-related offences.

Major cultural landmarks that attract millions of visitors each year are being revitalized to maintain Ontario's reputation as a cultural tourism destination.



Investments in Northern and Rural Ontario

Significant infrastructure investments are being directed to northern and rural communities to help build prosperous economies, create jobs and educational opportunities and maintain the quality of life all Ontarians deserve. In the 2006 Ontario Budget, $500-million was earmarked for northern infrastructure.

New and improved hospitals in North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Sioux Lookout, Mattawa and Thunder Bay will improve access to medical care. Investments in universities will provide northern students with opportunities closer to home, and transportation investments such as the *Northern Ontario Highways Strategy*, will create jobs and safer more efficient transportation routes.

Investments in the Greater Golden Horseshoe

The Greater Golden Horseshoe is the economic engine of Canada and the third fastest growing urban region in North America.

In June 2006, the government released the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*, a landmark initiative that will result in more vibrant, livable communities, well-planned areas and integrated transportation systems.

Infrastructure investments in the Greater Golden Horseshoe are supporting the vision of the Growth Plan. Investments of more than $8.3 billion in the region by 2010 will ensure healthy, prosperous and diverse communities today and in the future. The province is supporting the vision of the Growth Plan with strategic infrastructure investments that match infrastructure priorities with the goals and objectives of the plan.

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We've made significant progress since May 2005. We will continue to work together with our partners to make the investments that will meet today's needs, while building a better tomorrow.

To learn more about the ReNew Ontario Progress Report, visit **www.ontario.ca/pir**.

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